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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Memorandum



THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM

Information as of 1600
1 September 1966

PREPARED FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
FURTHER DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION
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HIGHLIGHTS

The Buddhist Institute may once again be pressing the government for the release of Buddhist political prisoners and for other concessions. There are indications that Tri Quang may commit suicide if the Buddhist demands are not met.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:
South Vietnamese Army units engaged a Communist force in northernmost Quang Tri Province yesterday, killing 52 enemy troops (Para. 1). Two US operations in the central part of the country--PAUL REVERE III and JOHN PAUL JONES--report light contact with Communist forces (Paras. 2-3).

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Weekly review of South Vietnam battle statistics (Para. 6)

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III. Military Developments in North Vietnam:
The effectiveness of surface-to-air missiles in North Vietnam remains low although there has been a marked increase in the number fired (Paras. 1-4).

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V. Communist Political Developments: Hanoi has not yet commented on De Gaulle's Phnom Penh speech (Para. 1).

ANNEX:

South Vietnam Battle Statistics 21-27 Aug

Total Personnel Losses

Cumulative US Combat Casualties

Total Friendly Forces Personnel Losses

South Vietnam Battle Statistics 21-27 Aug

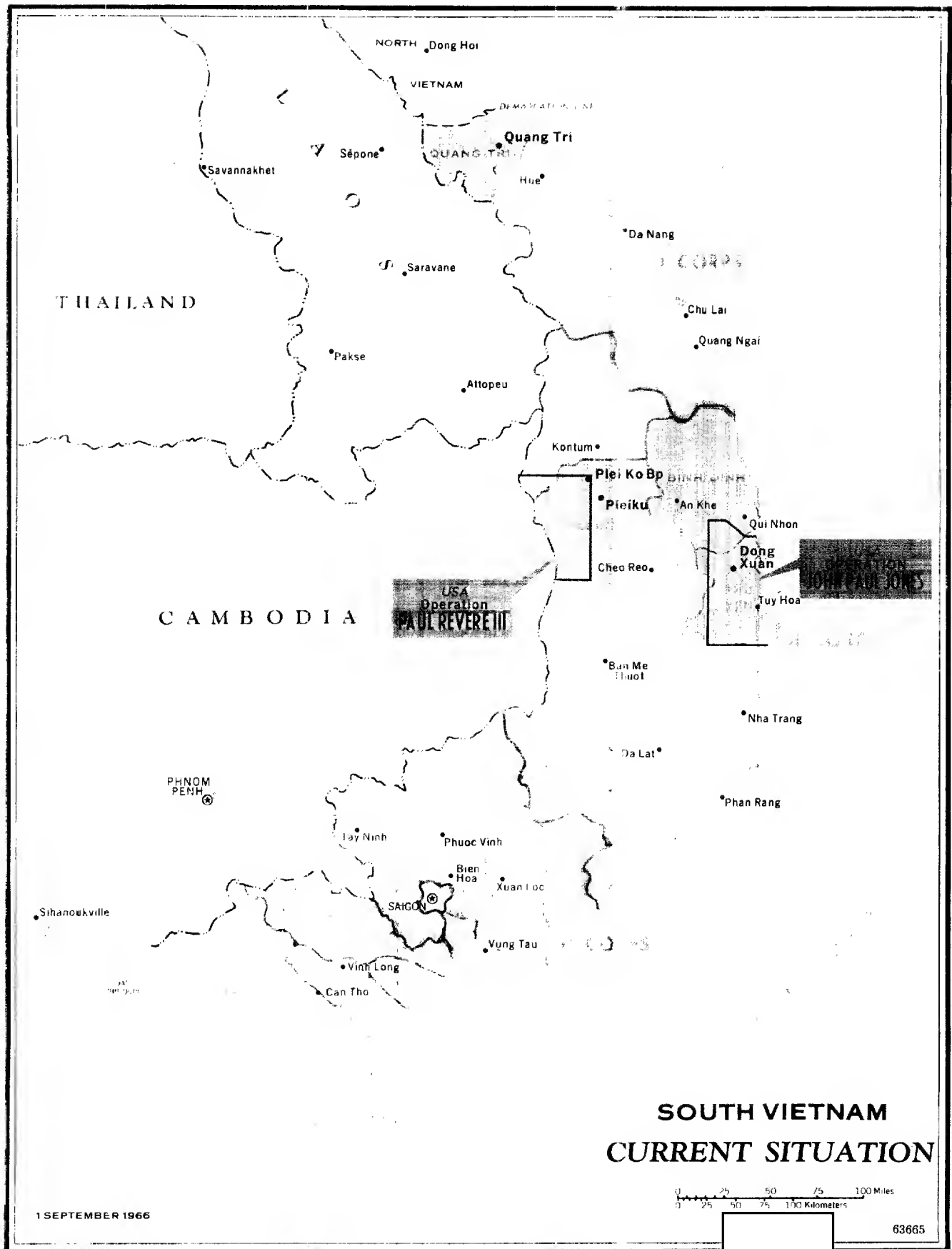
Viet Cong incidents

Viet Cong Attacks

Weapons Losses--GVN/VC

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. South Vietnamese Army units engaged an estimated company-size Communist force yesterday in an area about six miles northeast of Quang Tri town in northernmost Quang Tri Province. Friendly casualties were reported as eight killed and four wounded. Enemy losses included 52 killed and two captured.

2. A 200-man company of the US 101st Airborne Brigade, participating in Operation JOHN PAUL JONES in coastal Phu Yen and Binh Dinh provinces, reportedly encountered a Viet Cong force near Dong Xuan early today. No casualty reports are available. This multibattalion US operation began on 21 July and has resulted to date in 224 Viet Cong killed and 39 captured.

3. One company of the US 25th Infantry Division participating in Operation PAUL REVERE III in western Pleiku Province reported killing at least four Communist troops in a brief encounter about 18 miles west of Pleiku town. Phase III of this four-battalion border surveillance operation began on 25 August. To date two Americans have been reported killed and one wounded.

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Weekly Review of South Vietnam Battle Statistics

6. The week of 21-27 August compared with the week of 14-20 August:

I. Viet Cong Incidents

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>At-tacks</u>	<u>Regimental size</u>	<u>Battalion size</u>	<u>Company size</u>	<u>Harass-ment</u>	<u>Ter-rorism</u>
14-20 Aug	18	0	2	1	403	14
21-27 Aug	23	0	3	4	356	15

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Sabotage</u>	<u>Propaganda</u>	<u>Anti-Aircraft</u>	<u>Total Incidents</u>
14-20 Aug	28	18	75	556
21-27 Aug	31	31	214	670

II. Casualties

	<u>VC/NVA</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>14-20 Aug</u>	<u>21-27 Aug</u>	<u>14-20 Aug</u>	<u>21-27 Aug</u>
Killed	1,877	1,009	216	205
Wounded	-----	-----	414	375
Missing/Captured	<u>241</u>	<u>191</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>78</u>
TOTALS	2,118	1,200	663	658

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II. Casualties (continued)

	<u>US</u>		<u>FREE WORLD</u>	
	<u>14-20 Aug</u>	<u>21-27 Aug</u>	<u>14-20 Aug</u>	<u>21-27 Aug</u>
Killed	91	87	23	5
Wounded	425	599	63	14
Missing/Captured	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTALS	524	687	86	19

III. Weapons Captured

	<u>VC/NVA</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>14-20 Aug</u>	<u>21-27 Aug</u>	<u>14-20 Aug</u>	<u>21-27 Aug</u>
Individual	304	Not	211	208
Crew-served	<u>29</u>	Reported	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>
TOTALS	333		215	214

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III. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH VIETNAM

1. North Vietnamese surface-to-air missile (SAM) activity continued at a high level during the month of August as 203 SAM firings succeeded in bringing down six US aircraft. A total of 27 planes has been lost to 723 SA-2 missiles fired since the first DRV SAM firings in July 1965. In contrast to claims in the Soviet press that the USSR's principal air defense weapon has achieved 100-percent effectiveness in North Vietnam, only about four percent of the missiles fired have hit their targets.

2. The number of missile firings has increased markedly since 30 June 1966 when Soviet personnel are believed to have renewed their active participation in the DRV missile system. During July and August of this year there were 395 SAMs launched as compared with 297 fired in the preceding 11 months. Nine US aircraft were lost to SAMs in July and August compared with the period between 24 April and 19 July when there were no SAM losses. This increase was probably due in part to the fact that the number of US missions has risen markedly and US aircraft have flown over more heavily defended areas than ever before. In addition, recent reforms undertaken in the DRV air defense system may have played a part in increasing US losses to SAMs. On the basis of planes destroyed per missiles fired, however, the effectiveness of the SA-2s in North Vietnam has actually declined since the Soviets made their reappearance in the system.

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V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. North Vietnam has not as yet reported or commented on French President De Gaulle's 1 September speech in Phnom Penh on the Vietnam situation. Hanoi commentary has been primarily concerned with the celebration of the 21st anniversary of the DRV's national day on 2 September. This commentary has emphasized in routine language the Vietnamese Communists' determination to continue the war and their confidence in ultimate victory.

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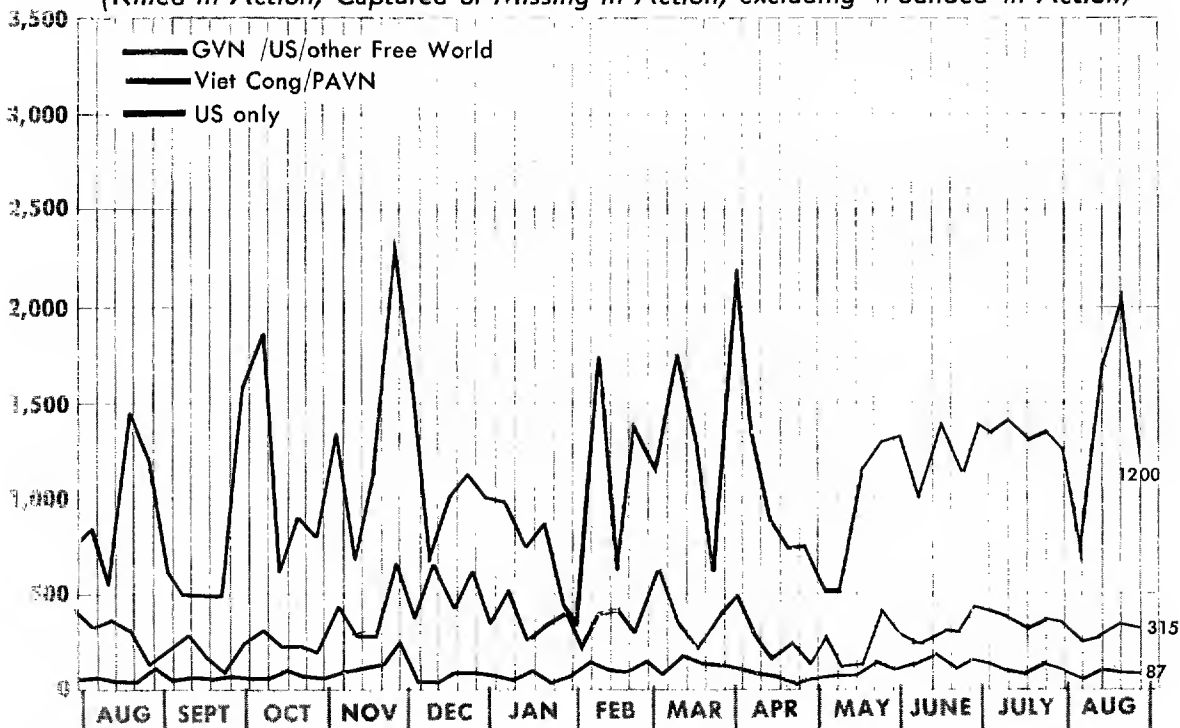
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SOUTH VIETNAM BATTLE STATISTICS

WEEKLY REPORT 21- 27 AUGUST 1966

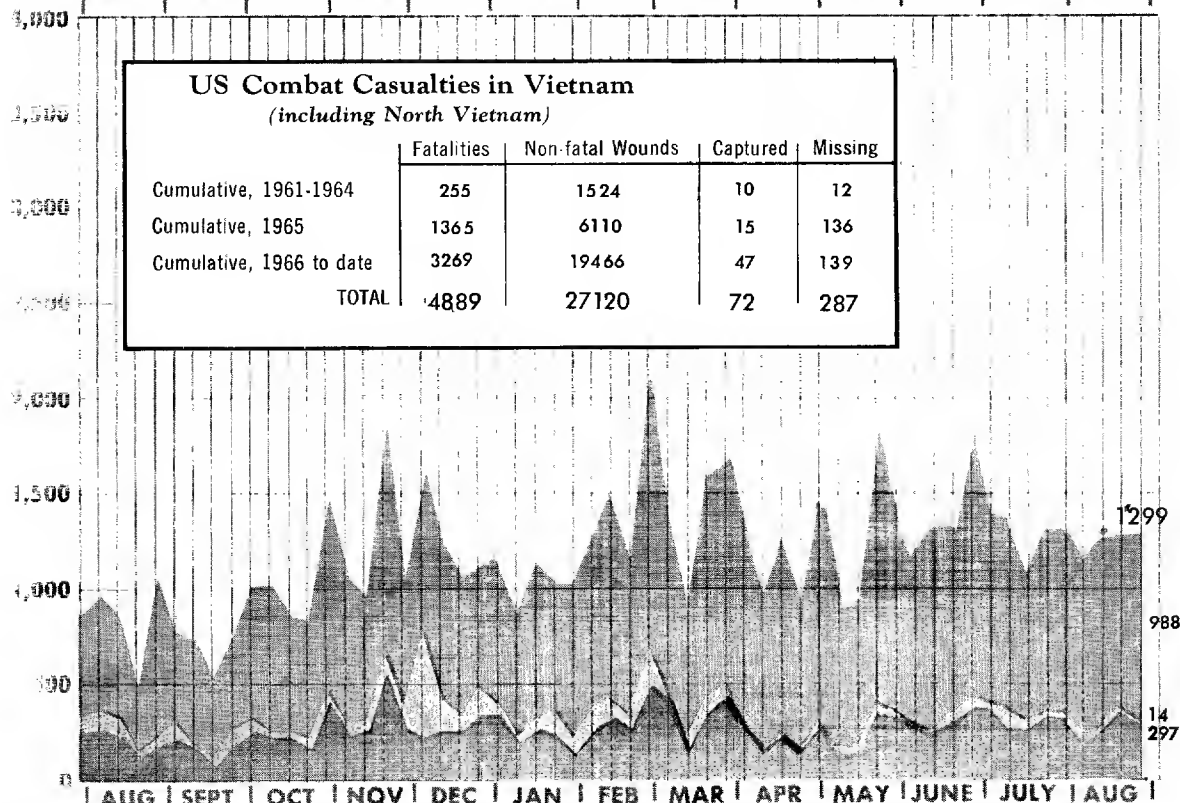
Total Personnel Losses

(Killed in Action, Captured or Missing in Action, excluding Wounded in Action)



US Combat Casualties in Vietnam (including North Vietnam)

	Fatalities	Non-fatal Wounds	Captured	Missing
Cumulative, 1961-1964	255	1524	10	12
Cumulative, 1965	1365	6110	15	136
Cumulative, 1966 to date	3269	19466	47	139
TOTAL	4889	27120	72	287



Total Friendly Forces Personnel Losses

(US/GVN/Other Free World)

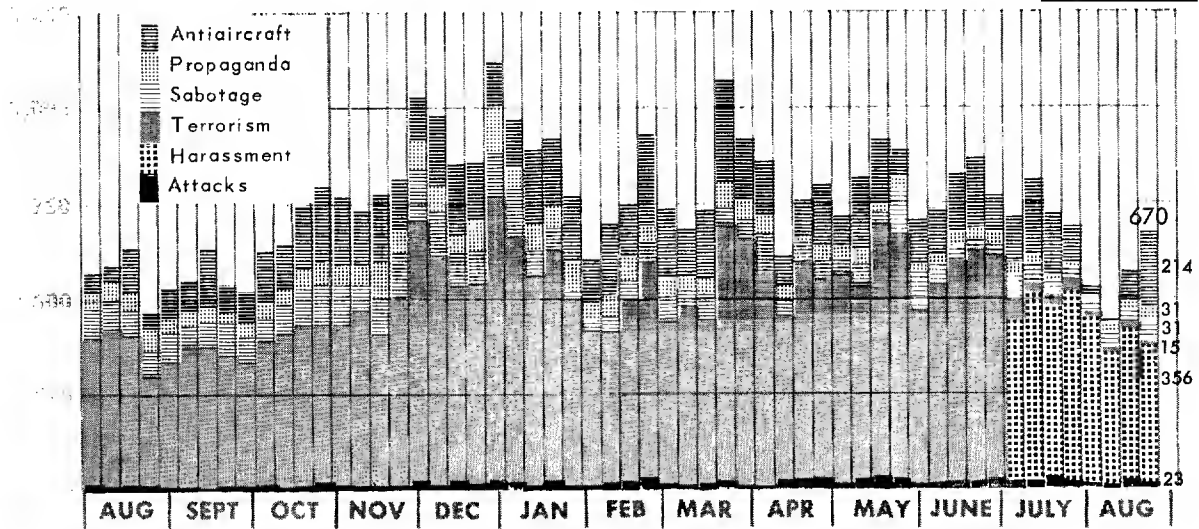
63651 Killed in action Missing or Captured in action Wounded in action

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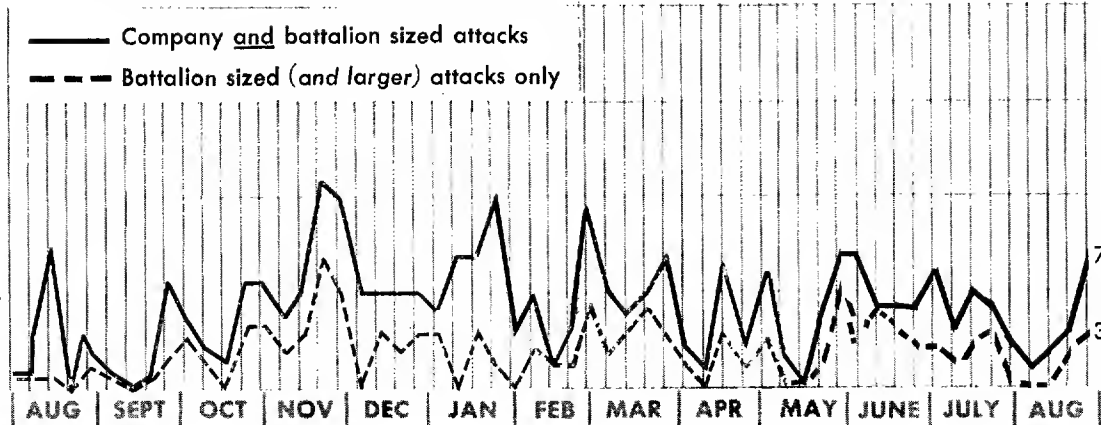
SOUTH VIETNAM BATTLE STATISTICS

WEEKLY REPORT 21-27 AUGUST 1966

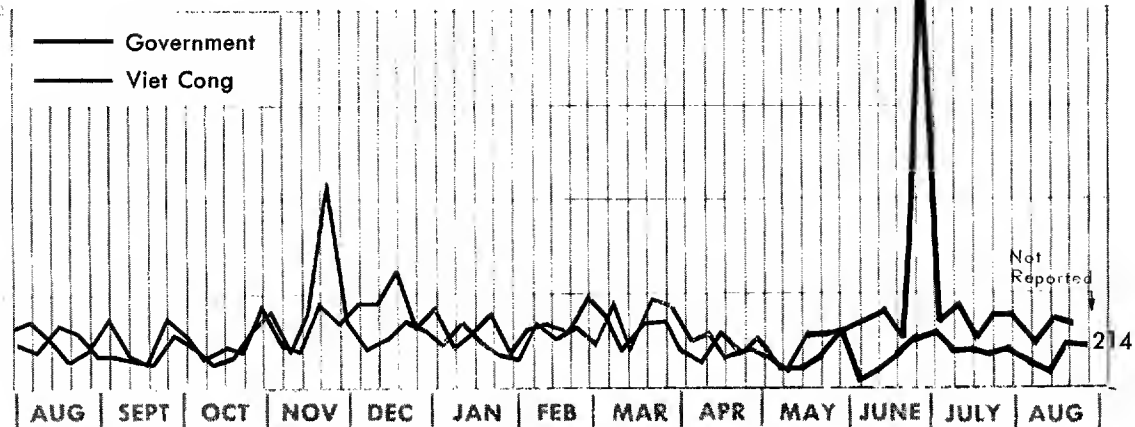
Viet Cong Incidents



Viet Cong Attacks



Weapons Losses



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